

two skis attached to the frame and operatively connected to the steering device for steering the snowmobile; and

a footrest disposed below each side of the seat, each said footrest being dimensioned with respect to the seat and the steering device to support the rider's foot thereon,

wherein, for the standard rider in the standard position, the seat defines a seat position, the steering device defines a steering position, and the footrests define a footrest position,

wherein a line passing through the seat position and the steering position forms angle α with a line passing through the seat position and the footrest position;

wherein a line passing through the footrest position and the steering position forms angle β with the line passing through the footrest position and the seat position,

wherein the line passing through the footrest position and the steering position forms angle γ with the line passing through the steering position and the seat position, and

wherein angle α is between 63 and 152°, angle β is between 16 and 84°, and angle γ is between 11 and 42°.

44. (Thrice Amended) A snowmobile, comprising:

a frame;

a straddle seat disposed on the frame, the seat being dimensioned to support a standard rider in a standard position in which the standard rider straddles the seat while the snowmobile is heading straight ahead on flat terrain;

an engine disposed on the frame in front of the seat;

a steering device disposed on the frame and spaced forward of the seat such that, when the rider grasps the steering device in the standard position, the rider's torso is tilted

toward the steering device and the rider's arms extend toward the steering device with the rider's elbows substantially over the rider's feet;

two skis attached to the frame and operatively connected to the steering device for steering the snowmobile; and

a footrest disposed below each side of the seat, each said footrest being dimensioned and configured with respect to the seat and the steering device to support the rider's foot thereon;

wherein, for the standard rider in the standard position, the seat defines a seat position, the steering device defines a steering position, and the footrests define a footrest position,

C2 wherein a line passing through the seat position and the steering position forms angle α with a line passing through the seat position and the footrest position;

wherein a line passing through the footrest position and the steering position forms angle β with the line passing through the footrest position and the seat position,

wherein the line passing through the footrest position and the steering position forms angle γ with the line passing through the steering position and the seat position,

wherein angle α , angle β , and angle γ satisfy the relationship $\alpha \geq \beta \geq \gamma$; and

wherein a distance between vertical lines passing through the steering position and the seat position is between 40-90 cm.

45. (Twice Amended) A snowmobile, comprising:

a frame;

a straddle seat disposed on the frame, the seat being dimensioned to support a standard rider in a standard position in which the standard rider straddles the seat while the snowmobile is heading straight ahead on flat terrain;

an engine disposed on the frame in front of the seat;

a steering device disposed on the frame and spaced forward of the seat such that, when the rider grasps the steering device in the standard position, the rider's torso is tilted toward the steering device and the rider's arms extend toward the steering device with the rider's elbows substantially over the rider's feet;

two skis attached to the frame and operatively connected to the steering device for steering the snowmobile; and

C2 a footrest disposed below each side of the seat, each said footrest being dimensioned and configured with respect to the seat and the steering device to support the rider's foot thereon;

wherein, for the standard rider in the standard position, the seat defines a seat position, the steering device defines a steering position, and the footrests define a footrest position,

wherein a line passing through the seat position and the steering position forms angle α with a line passing through the seat position and the footrest position;

wherein a line passing through the footrest position and the steering position forms angle γ with the line passing through the steering position and the seat position, and

wherein $\alpha \approx 2.5\gamma$.

46. (Thrice Amended) A snowmobile, comprising:

a frame;

a straddle seat disposed on the frame, the seat being dimensioned to support a standard rider in a standard position in which the standard rider straddles the seat and the rider's thighs are substantially parallel to ground while the snowmobile is heading straight ahead on flat terrain;

an engine disposed on the frame in front of the seat;

C2 a steering device disposed on the frame and spaced forward of the seat such that, when the rider grasps the steering device in the standard position, the standard rider's torso is tilted toward the steering device and the rider's arms extend toward the steering device with the rider's elbows substantially over the rider's feet; and

two skis attached to the frame and operatively connected to the steering device for steering the snowmobile;

wherein the seat defines a seat position and the steering device defines a steering position for the standard rider in the standard position, and

wherein a line passing through the steering position and the seat position forms an angle ϕ with horizontal that is between 15 and 51°.

81. (Thrice Amended) A snowmobile, comprising:

a frame;

C3 a straddle seat disposed on the frame, the seat being dimensioned to support a standard rider in a standard position in which the standard rider straddles the seat while the snowmobile is heading straight ahead on flat terrain;

an engine disposed on the frame in front of the seat;

two skis attached to the frame;

a steering device operatively connected to the two skis, the steering device being spaced forward of the seat such that, when the rider grasps the steering device in the standard position, the standard rider's torso is tilted toward the steering device and the rider's arms extend toward the steering device with the rider's elbows substantially over the rider's feet; and

a sideboard extending laterally from the frame below each side of the seat, each said sideboard having a forward portion dimensional and configured with respect to the seat and the steering device to support a rider's foot thereon,

wherein, for the standard rider in the standard position, the seat defines a seat position, the steering device defines a steering position, and the forward portion of each said sideboard defines a footrest position,

wherein a line passing through the seat position and the steering position forms angle α with a line passing through the seat position and the footrest position;

wherein a line passing through the footrest position and the steering position forms angle β with the line passing through the footrest position and the seat position,

wherein the line passing through the footrest position and the steering position forms angle γ with the line passing through the steering position and the seat position, and

wherein angle α , angle β , and angle γ satisfy the relationship $\alpha \geq \beta \geq \gamma$.

82. (Thrice Amended) A snowmobile, comprising:

a frame;

a straddle seat disposed on the frame, the seat being dimensioned to support a standard rider in a standard position in which the standard rider straddles the seat while the snowmobile is heading straight ahead on flat terrain;

an engine disposed on the frame in front of the seat;

two skis attached to the frame;

a steering device operatively connected to the two skis, the steering device being spaced forward of the seat such that, when the rider grasps the steering device in the standard position, the standard rider's torso is slightly tilted toward the steering device and the rider's

arms extend toward the steering device with the rider's elbows substantially over the rider's feet; and

a sideboard extending laterally from each side of the frame below the seat, each said sideboard having a forward portion dimensioned and configured with respect to the seat and the steering device to support a rider's foot thereon,

C3 wherein, for the standard rider in the standard position, the seat defines a seat position, the steering device defines a steering position, and the forward portions of the sideboards define a footrest position,

wherein a line passing through the seat position and the steering position forms angle α with a line passing through the seat position and the footrest position;

wherein a line passing through the footrest position and the steering position forms angle γ with the line passing through the steering position and the seat position, and

wherein $\alpha \approx 2.5\gamma$.